

Abstract

A method used in networks for controlling the termination date of electrical documents. The 5 network includes a server connected with a plurality of terminals, that can request the server to rent an electrical document for a specific time period and the server storing the electrical document to a storage device of the terminal. Users begin by loading an 10 application program in the terminal to set a specific storing position for the electrical document. Then, the server encrypts the current date, the termination date, and the plaintext of the electrical document to a corresponding ciphertext, and transferring the 15 ciphertext to the terminal. The terminal accepts and stores the ciphertext in the specific storing position of the storage device, and records the information of the storing position when it requests the server to rent the electrical document. When users intend to 20 read an electrical document, the application program matches the current storing position with the recorded storing position and deciphers the ciphertext to the original ciphertext of the electrical document. The application program continually updates and stores the 25 current date in the storing position during the time users read the electrical document. When the current date exceeds the termination date or when the total reading hours exceeds a predetermined reading hours, the application program denies access to the 30 electrical document.